modulated, encoded user information in said user track regions in said program area with a track pitch in the range between 0.646 µm and 1.05 µm, wherein said optical disk has a linear velocity in the range of 3.3 m to 5.3 m per second during a playback operation.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-64, amended claims 65 and 66, and new claims 67-72 are in this application.

Claims 1-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251. In explaining this rejection, the Examiner stated that claims "65 and 66 lack limitations specifically argued in the patented parent." Claims 65 and 66 have been amended herein. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The application was objected to under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as lacking the written consent of all assignees. In explaining this objection, the Examiner stated that the "assent of the assignee is defective in that it is not clearly signed by someone having the apparent authority to sign ...". It is respectfully submitted that the Assent of Assignee mailed on June 1, 2000 was signed by someone having the authority to sign such document on behalf of Sony Corporation, the assignee of the full and entire right, title and interest in the present matter.
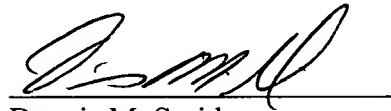
The Examiner stated that that any "subsequent amendment to the specification and/or claims must comply with 37 CFR 1.121(b)." It is believed that the present amendment complies therewith.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:

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"Version with markings to show changes made."

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 65 and 66 by rewriting the same to the following:

--65. (Thrice Amended)   A method of recording data on an optical disk

having a diameter less than 140 mm and a recording area divided into a lead-in area, a program

area and a lead-out area, said method comprising the steps of: providing user information for

recording in a plurality of sectors in user tracks [regions]; providing table of contents (TOC)

[control] information for recording in a plurality of sectors in at least one TOC track, said TOC

[control information region, said control] information including addresses of respective start

sectors, each identifying a start sector of a respective user track; encoding both said user

information and said TOC [control] information in a long distance error correction code having

at least eight parity symbols; modulating the encoded user and TOC [control] information;

recording the modulated, encoded TOC [control] information in said at least one TOC track in

[control information region in either] said lead-in [area or said program] area; and recording the

modulated, encoded user information in said user [track regions] tracks in said program area with

a track pitch in the range between 0.646 μm and 1.05 μm.--

--66. (Thrice Amended)   Apparatus for recording data on an optical disk

having a diameter less than 140 mm and a recording area divided into a lead-in area, a program

area and a lead-out area, said apparatus comprising: input means for providing user information

for recording in a plurality of sectors in user tracks and table of contents (TOC) [track regions

and control] information for recording in a plurality of sectors in at least one TOC track, said

TOC [control information region, said control] information including addresses of respective

start sectors, each identifying a start sector of a respective user track; encoding means for

encoding both said user information and said TOC [control] information in a long distance error

correction code having at least eight parity symbols; [modular] modulator means for modulating

the encoded user and TOC [control] information; and recording means for recording the

modulated, encoded TOC [control] information in said at least one TOC track in [control

information region in either] said lead-in area [or said] and for recording [program area and] the

modulated, encoded user information in said user tracks [regions] in said program area with a

track pitch in the range between 0.646 μm and 1.05 μm.—